

Encouragement— Its many Sources

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John 14:18 *I will not leave you no abandon*
Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things thru*
2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has given us*
Acts 14:22 *We must go through many trials*
Jonah 2:8 *They that observe lying vanities forsake*

- 1 Encouragement is needed today more than ever with so many discouraging news reports and things happening that were unheard of before.
- 2 Encouragement is available from many sources, and it begins with a choice to seek and find those resources.
- 3 Jesus promised AV John 14:18 “*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you*”—and He lives in our heart to encourage and help us through any trial facing us.
- 4 NKJV Philippians 4:13 “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*”
- 5 We may have charged our phone, only to realize the charger was not plugged in.
- 6 If our spiritual life needs recharged, we should check the connection to the energy source—the Word of God.
- 7 If we saturate ourselves in the Scriptures, we will be better prepared to hold on to hope in disappointing times.
- 8 Continuing to put our trust on Jesus and knowing that the sacrifice He made for us on the cross forgives our sins, we will be encouraged.
- 9 No matter what we are going through or what discouraging thoughts Satan puts in our

mind, we can reject them and be encouraged.

Encouragement is always found in the Bible—the apostle says NIV 2 Peter 1:3 “*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*”

10 God’s divine power made the universe—the stars and planets, the trees, vegetation, and human beings—He surely has power to change any discouraging situation we face—and He promises to give us anything needed to live a godly life of faith and trust in Him.

11 Adam enjoyed a *perfect* environment in Eden; he had the *presence* of God and a close *friendship* with Him.

12 The devil could not *touch* him until he got Adam’s attention—and began suggesting things to his mind. Adam *accepted* them and *acted* on these lies, which *robbed* him of everything God had given him.

13 The apostles travelled to many locations NIV Acts 14:22 “*Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. ‘We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,’ they said.*”

14 The “*Father of mercies*” is the “*God of all comfort*” 2 Corinthians 1:3 AV, but the devil can make it seem that the *discouragements* we meet are more than the *encouragements* we hear.

15 We need to be reminded that the source of encouragement is always from Jesus who gave His life *for* us to *assure* us of eternal life.

16 God has promised to enlighten us to *know* the *reason* for discouragements, and to also *know* how to be *encouraged*. It is why God had the Scriptures written—He *wants* us to *read* them and to have peace—as any loving parent would want their children to have.

17 When people needed to hear good news, God sent an angel to say AV Luke 2:10 “*Fear not: for,*

behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

18 The angel adds 14 “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*”

19 God wants to comfort anyone who is discouraged or depressed—that is why He sent His Son to earth to live with us. Jesus was here long enough to *show* us and *teach* us and to *pay* the price to forgive our sins.

20 As a believer, we have the God of encouragement with us—and He is able to change any situation that is discouraging to us.

21 Encouragement comes from believing what God says, and discouragement comes from accepting the *lies* the devil puts in our mind. *Victory* or *defeat* is at *this* point—if we listen to Satan we feel defeated; if we listen to God, we are encouraged.

22 Satan discourages us by thoughts and suggestions. If we forget that these are from him, we can accept them as reasonable.

23 God will always *love* us; He is always *with* us; and He can always *inspire* us to trust on the Blood of His Son Jesus.

24 Satan never identifies himself and he does not tell us *I’ve come to discourage you; I will tell you lies and make you unhappy.*

25 He will *suggest* anything that would be *discouraging* and *depressing*, but the source of *encouragement* is always from God, and the source of *discouragement* is always from the devil.

26 Satan will inject thoughts into our mind—and these are always depressing. Once we identify him, we will know the discouragement is from *him*. We then reject it—knowing that a thief will flee once he is identified. Satan *cannot* harm us if we will *not* believe what he says.

27 Job had serious troubles and losses—he said that God just took those things away from him to see how much he could tolerate. Imagine how

cruel a parent would be to do such things to a child—to see how much they could take?

28 The troubles and losses happened to Job because he was outside of God’s will in his life; it was because of his self-righteousness; his unbelief; his rebellion; and because he did not *know* God’s true character.

29 Satan could not do a thing to *harm* Job until he got *Job’s* consent. AV **Job 3:25-26** “*For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.*”

30 He was believing what the *devil* put in his mind—similar to Jonah. AV **Jonah 2:8** “*They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy;*” NIV “*Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.*”

31 Job listened to the *devil*, and it landed him on an ash heap full of sores; Jonah listened to the *devil*, and he ended up in the stomach of a fish. The devil could *not* have harmed Adam, Job, Jonah, or anyone else if they had *not believed* him.

32 All that Satan does to *defeat, discourage,* and bring *despair,* is because we have *listened* to him and have *rejected* what God has promised.

33 Elihu wanted to encourage Job and told him that when a person is tried and tested—NIV **Job 33:26** “*He prays to God and finds favor with him, he sees God’s face and shouts for joy; he is restored by God to his righteous state.*”

34 God does *not* want the devil to rob us of any blessing—He is *patient* with us and wants to encourage us to keep trusting in faith for blessings He promises.

35 God will *teach* us how to receive what He wants to give. We just need to *stop listening* to *Satan’s* lies and *start believing* God’s truthful words.

36 When we listen to God’s Word, Satan’s power is broken over the things that had *discouraged* us—problems in our home; our health; financial matters; or employment issues.

37 We go through trials NIV **Job 33:29** “*twice, even three times—30 to turn back his soul from the pit, that the light of life may shine on him.*”

38 The Holy Spirit always brings *positive blessings;* but the devil always causes *negative things.*

39 It may *seem* that people in the Bible were *not* tempted as often as we are, but Satan is the same in all ages. He *lied* and defeated Adam, and he *lies* and defeats millions today.

40 A man came to Jesus for the healing of his son—and Jesus told him AV **John 4:48-49** “*Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die;*” but Jesus did *not* go with him, He just said, “*Go thy way; thy son liveth.*”

41 Satan would be right there to put many things in the man’s mind—that the boy was *not* healed; or that the boy was worse. Satan would have painted the worst of results to the man’s mind.

42 It would not have been easy for the nobleman to *believe* what Jesus said, because of so many at that time—the Pharisees, the religious leaders, and many Jews saying that Jesus was *not* the Messiah and would *not* be able to heal the boy.

43 The nobleman had to risk the life of his son on Someone everyone said was a deceiver.

44 We know God’s Word is absolutely true; that Jesus *is* the Messiah; and that every promise is *Yes* and *Amen* because of the Atonement sacrifice He made on the Cross.

45 The nobleman held to the promise Jesus gave him. “*And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.*”

46 The nobleman found his son delivered as Jesus said. AV **John 4:52** “*Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said*

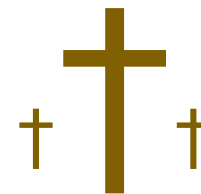
unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

47 53 *So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.*”

48 Scripture is always fulfilled when we *believe* what God has written.

49 When we face a difficult situation and are seriously tested in faith, we have God’s *Word* to encourage us, strengthen us, and inspire us—and we are *responsible* to *read* it and *be* encouraged.

50 AV **Romans 15:4** “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and [encouragement NIV] of the scriptures might have hope.*”



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